



**Parks & Recreation Commission
MINUTES**
Thursday, June 24, 2021, 6:00 pm
Virtual ZOOM Meeting



1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Commission Chair Ken Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Recorder Lange completed a roll call.
- b. Commission Vice Chair Stroben led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners, City Council Liaison, and Staff Present:

Commission Chair Ken Hahn	Emily Estes-Cross, Parks & Recreation Director
Commission Vice Chair Linda Stroben	Ian Dezember, Parks & Facilities Manager
Commissioner Jack Anderson	Brandon Lange, Recorder
Commissioner Ty Fischer	
Commissioner Robb Heston	
Mayor Pro Tem Steve Lee	

Parks and Recreation Commissioners Absent:

Commissioner Dean Aeling – Excused
Commissioner Isabelle Mickelson – Unexcused

2. HONORS & RECOGNITION – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Stroben moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Heston, the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the March 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes. With a second from Commissioner Stroben, the motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITORS –This meeting, held online thru Zoom, had no visitors in attendance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A self-guided tour itinerary was provided. The seven parks and facilities tour stops feature recent improvements or future funded projects. The tour is voluntary, and Commissioner input on the projects is encouraged at the August 26th regularly-scheduled Commission meeting. Tour stops include:

- Cascade Linear Park (path), Intersection of S Everett St and W 45th Ave
- Monopoly Park, 825 S Date St.
- Keewaydin Community Center, 500 W Keewaydin Dr
- Keewaydin Park, 500 W Keewaydin Dr
- Underwood Park, 2020 W 7th Ave. (across the street from Vancouver Park)
- Vancouver Park, 2025 W 7th Ave.
- Columbia Park

- East Boat Launch Docks (near the Blue Bridge underpass)
- Shoreline Stabilization Project (enter at gate near skate park restroom)
- Playground of Dreams Archway Sign (West Parking Lot)
- Golf Course Driving Range Netting Replacement
- Campground (2.75 miles west of the Columbia River Landing golf course facility)

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Park Hills Update: Commission Chair Hahn reported 12 citizens attended the May 1st open house at the park. Some were eager to garner support from neighbors to fundraise for park improvements and voluntarily maintain the park, suggesting dilapidated amenities be replaced with grass to maintain the open green space. No park users attended the May 1st event. Ms. Estes-Cross outlined the public outreach campaign that occurred over the past few months, including two letters to parcel owners (one in March and a follow up letter in April), a website, and the park use survey results. Of the 286 homeowners, 23 surveys were submitted. Seven neighbors (30% of respondents, 3% of the neighborhood) said they were supportive of entering into an agreement with the City to maintain the park at the homeowner expense. Eleven people (roughly half of the respondents) said they were likely to volunteer to maintain the park. Seven respondents said they would be likely to participate in fundraising to update the play structure, and eight said they would be likely to participate in fundraising to repair the basketball court. The highest use of the park is in the summer, with 67% of respondents reporting using the park 5 or more times per month, followed by 57% using the park with the same monthly frequency in spring and 52% in fall. A range of 5 to 11 people (24% to 48%) reported never using the park during the four seasons. Court, play structure, and grass area are most used park amenities. The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan suggests reducing neighborhood “pocket parks” as a cost-efficiency to focus resources on neighborhood parks; and ensuring a level of service in which every resident is within a half-mile of a public park or school facility. Kenwood Park, Jay Perry Park, and Park Hills Middle School fall within the half-mile Park Hills neighborhood service area.

6. POLL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF

- Commission Chair Hahn – River of Fire scheduled for July 4th.
- Commissioner Aeling - Nothing to report
- Commissioner Heston – Nothing to report
- Commissioner Fischer - Nothing to report
- Commission Vice Chair Stroben - Nothing to report
- Commissioner Anderson - Big thank you to Emily, Brandon, and Ian. Sports season was able to be salvaged. Swim and dive was moved as was almost every sport.
- Mayor Pro Tem Lee – Nothing to report
- Mr. Dezember – Nothing to report
- Ms. Estes-Cross – City looking at micromobility (shared electric scooters and bikes). Richland is reviewing prospective policies, while Kennewick staff starts evaluating its municipal codes. Recreation staff is extremely busy. Interest in a dog park was received from a few citizens. Emily will email known history of dog park grant request.

- Mr. Lange – Sunset at Southridge update.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandon Lange, Recorder

DRAFT